
Preface

Accepting the invitation to edit this *Handbook* was something of an act of faith. It has been said that organising academic scholars is rather like herding cats – an aphorism that relates to university administration. Herding cats that are scattered around the globe is another thing again!

We took the approach in selecting contributors of inviting those we considered to be the leading experts in the areas we thought should be covered, and had to make very few adjustments in chapter subjects according to who we could recruit to the enterprise. Another criterion for selection was that we wanted authors who would bring a sharp analytical approach to their subject; many treatments of NGOs tend to be panegyrics, and we wanted the volume to both appreciate their positive qualities *and* reflect upon their shortcomings and limitations.

We were delighted with the range of authors who responded to our invitation to contribute a chapter. Only a few of them were known personally to us, and with most of them this was a case of two editors from the Antipodes ‘cold calling’ (actually, ‘cold e-mailing’) leading scholars and attempting to recruit them to the enterprise the publisher had commissioned us to undertake. It was a mixture of excitement and relief when they accepted. This mixture continued as their contributions came in, though the dose of relief was perhaps greater because we had at our disposal really no carrots or sticks, and (being scholars of global governance) we were only too aware that compliance on a global level is problematic.

We are, therefore, grateful that our distinguished authors both committed to the project and delivered on that commitment. Their contributions have each helped this volume reach greater heights than it would without them. We thank our contributors – and look forward to the prospect that we might one day meet them in person.

